

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of removable developing units each of which has an image carrier whose width is narrower than a width of a printable area of a printing medium; and

a driving unit for driving the plurality of the removable developing units;

the plurality of the removable developing units being disposed in different rows parallel to a main scanning direction such that one end of an image producing area of an image carrier of a first developing unit coincides with one end of an image producing area of an image carrier of a second developing unit adjoining to the first developing unit;

the image forming apparatus further comprising a control unit for supplying printing data to the plurality of the removable developing units in timings shifted from row to row.

2. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of removable developing units each of which has an image carrier whose width is narrower than a width of a printable area of a printing medium; and

a driving unit for driving the plurality of the removable developing units;

the plurality of the removable developing units being disposed in different rows parallel to a main scanning direction such that an image producing area of an image carrier of a first developing unit and an image producing area of an image carrier of a second developing unit adjoining to the first developing unit partially overlap with each other;

the image forming apparatus further comprising a control unit for supplying printing data to the plurality of the removable developing units in timings shifted from row to row.

3. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, in which the plurality of the developing units are installed in a developing-unit guide.

4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, in which the plurality of the developing units are installed in a developing-unit guide.

5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, in which the developing-unit guide is installed in a main body of the image forming apparatus so as to be rotatable about a shaft fixed to the main body and pivoting one end of the developing-unit guide.

6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, in which the developing-unit guide is installed in a main body of the image forming apparatus so as to be rotatable about a shaft fixed to the main body and pivoting one end of the developing-unit guide.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, in which the developing-unit guide is removable from a main body of the image forming apparatus.

8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, in which the developing-unit guide is removable from a main body of the image forming apparatus.

9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, in which a bottom plate of the developing-unit guide serves as a part of a printing media transporting passageway.

10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, in which a bottom plate of the developing-unit guide serves as a part

of a printing media transporting passageway.

11. An image forming apparatus according to claim 9, in which the bottom plate of the developing-unit guide is provided with ribs parallel to a printing media transporting direction.

12. An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, in which the bottom plate of the developing-unit guide is provided with ribs parallel to a printing media transporting direction.

13. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, in which each of the plurality of the removable developing units is a color developing unit.

14. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, in which each of the plurality of the removable developing units is a color developing unit.

15. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, in which the plurality of the removable developing units are situated over a printing media transporting passageway within a main body of the image forming apparatus.

16. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, in which the plurality of the removable developing units are situated over a printing media transporting passageway within a main body of the image forming apparatus.

17. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, in which the plurality of the removable developing units are situated over an intermediate transferring unit within a main body of the image forming apparatus.

18. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, in which

the plurality of the removable developing units are situated over an intermediate transferring unit within a main body of the image forming apparatus.

19. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of developing units each of which has a writing head;

a memory unit for storing image data arranged in an array for each of the plurality of the developing units;

an operation unit allowing to select one of different levels at which the image data is corrected for compensating for displacement and inclination of at least one of the plurality of the developing units with respect to reference one of the plurality of the developing units; and

a control unit for modifying an arrangement of the image data within the memory unit in accordance with the selected level.